



## **HOT SHEET**

### **Tuesday, June 28, 2005**

**NOTE TO EDITORS:** This is the first day of competition at the 25<sup>th</sup> National Veterans Wheelchair Games – the largest annual wheelchair sports event in the world! The Games, a great patriotic, sports, and health/fitness story, run through Friday, July 1, 2005 at the Convention Center and two local bowling alleys today. Softball, basketball and quad rugby are highlights for today. **Actress Bo Derek**, National Honorary Chairperson of VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events, will be handing out medals and visiting the athletes all week. For media information about the Games or to arrange for interviews, please call the National Veterans Wheelchair Games Media Center (at the Convention Center) at (612) 335-6668 or 335-6669. For continuing updates this week, visit the Games web site at [www.wheelchairgames.org](http://www.wheelchairgames.org).

#### **BOWLING**

**8:00 am; 1:00 pm**

**South Town Bowl (IV-V & Ramp)**

**Eden Prairie Bowl (II – III & IA, IB, IC (stick/handleball))**

**Bowling is a very popular sport among wheelchair users with all types of disabilities.** The Games follow the rules of the American Wheelchair Bowling Association. Total pins in three complete games determine winners. Handleball and stick bowling are allowed for quadriplegic classes only; ramp bowling is allowed for quadriplegics using motorized wheelchairs. Ramp bowling (South Town Bowl) and quadriplegic competitors (Eden Prairie Bowl) begin bowling this afternoon at 1:00 pm; all others are in the morning, starting at 8:00 am.

#### **\*SOFTBALL GAMES 1&2; 3&4**

**1:00 & 3:00 pm**

**Convention Center, Halls B+C**

Lots of action here! Softball at the Wheelchair Games follows the same rules of official 16-inch, slow-pitch softball except that it is played on a hard surface to accommodate wheelchair movement. Most players use their bare hands rather than softball gloves or mitts. A spirited team event, with good opportunities for participant interviews. The final four teams will be playing for the gold, silver, and bronze medals on Friday, July 1 beginning at 10:00 am.

#### **\*QUAD RUGBY GAMES 1 & 2**

**6:30 & 8:00 pm**

**Convention Center, Halls B+C**

Quad rugby is a unique, tough, competitive contact sport especially developed for quadriplegic athletes. It is played on a basketball court by four-member teams. Unique to wheelchairs, this is an interesting event for the sports-viewing public and fun to watch. **Rough and tumble, high-action, great action photo and interview opportunities. Finals are on Friday, July 1 beginning at 1:00 pm.**

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**\*BASKETBALL**      **GAMES 1-3; 4-6**

**6:30 & 8:00 pm**

**Convention Center, Halls B+C**

The rules for wheelchair basketball are essentially the same as the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, with the wheelchair considered part of the player's body in determining physical contact fouls. Three levels of player classification are used to achieve team balance, and players are allowed two pushes between dribbles. This is a fast and furious competition. **Don't let the wheelchairs fool you—this is hard-core, spirited, exciting basketball with lots of crashing wheelchairs and occasional collisions! Semi-finals and finals are on Friday, July 1 beginning at 1:00 pm at the Convention Center.**

***\*Great action photo opportunities!***

**OTHER EVENTS ON TUESDAY**

- **9-Ball Event** – Convention Center, Hall D; 8:00 am & 1:00 pm
- **Air Guns Event** – Convention Center, Hall D; 10:00 am, 1:00, 3:00, & 7:00 pm
- **Quad Rugby Clinic** – Convention Center, Halls B+C; 4 pm

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